Claims

1. A wood cooking aid **characterized** in that it comprises a mixture of fatty acids and rosin acids and/or salts thereof in a ratio which is effective in removing the extractives in pulp production.

2. A wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that said salts are soaps of said acids and that said fatty acid rosin acid mixture contains less than about 15 %, preferably less than about 10 %, more preferably less than about 5 % unsaponifiable material.

3. A wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that said fatty acid rosin acid mixture comprises about 20 to about 98 %, preferably about 35 to about 80 %, more preferably about 50 to about 70 % rosin acids and about 70 to about 2 %, preferably about 55 to about 15 %, more preferably about 45 to about 25 % fatty acids.

4. A wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that said rosin acids comprise tall oil rosin acids, preferably abietic acid, dehydroabietic acid and/or palustric acid.

5. A wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that said rosin acids comprise pimaric acid and/or 8,15-pimaric acid.

6. A wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that said fatty acids comprise vegetable based fatty acids and/or animal based fatty acids, such as tallow.

7. A wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that said fatty acids comprise unsaturated fatty acids.

8. A wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that said fatty acids comprise oleic acid, linoleic acid and/or pinolenic acid.

9. A wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that said fatty acids comprise branched fatty acids, conjugated fatty acids, synthetic fatty acids and/or cyclic fatty acids.

10. A wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that said fatty acids comprise the monomer part produced during dimerization of fatty acids.

11. A wood cooking aid according to claim 10 **characterized** in that said monomer part contains branched oleic acids 13 to 20 %, branched stearic acids 7 to 20 %, oleic acid 15 to 25 %, other fatty acids 28 to 58 % the rest being unsaponifiable material.

12. A wood cooking aid according to claim 11 **characterized** in that the fatty acid distribution of said monomer part is branched oleic acids about 14 to about 16 %, branched stearic acid about 13 to about 15 %, oleic acid about 19 to about 21 %, other fatty acids about 42 to about 44 %.

13. A wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that said fatty acids and said rosin acids are derived from tall oil.

14. A wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that said fatty acids and said rosin acids comprise fractions of distilled tall oil.

15. A wood cooking aid according to claim 14 **characterized** in that said fatty acids comprise 5,11,14-C20:3 and 11,14-C20:2.

16. A wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that said fatty acids and said rosin acids are derived from distilled tall oil and/or tall oil rosin and/or tall oil fatty acids.

17. A method for preparing a wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that fatty acids and rosin acids are provided in a mixture in a ratio which is effective in removing the extractives in pulp production, and if desired salts of said acids are prepared by reacting said fatty acid rosin acid mixture containing the desired fatty acid and rosin acid distribution with water and sodium hydroxide.

18. A method for preparing a wood cooking aid according to claim 17 **characterized** in that said reacting is performed in a pressure reactor at a temperature above 100 °C.

19. A method for preparing a wood cooking aid according to claim 17 **characterized** in that said reacting is performed in a continuous reactor.

20. Use of the wood cooking aid according to claim 1 **characterized** in that a wood cooking aid comprising salts of fatty acids and rosin acids in a ratio which is effective in removing the extractives in pulp production is used in cooking of hardwood, preferably birch.